UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.5/1998/L.6
18 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-sixth session
10-20 February 1998
Agenda item 3 (a)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: PROMOTING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS AND PERSONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Joanna Wronecka (Poland)

Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons: elements for the agreed conclusions of the Commission

The Commission for Social Development,

Having considered the priority theme for 1998, "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons",

Decides to adopt the following agreed conclusions and to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council.

AGREED CONCLUSIONS ON PROMOTING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS AND PERSONS

1. Social integration is best promoted in close harmony with efforts to expand productive employment and eradicate poverty, given their mutually reinforcing interrelationship.

[2. [The primary responsibility for promoting social integration rests with national Governments, which should address priority concerns in the specific circumstances of each society.]

[REPLACE by para. 11 of the Agenda for Development: Notwithstanding the importance of a favourable international economic environment, ultimately each country bears primary responsibility for its own economic and social policies for development. - EU]

[Social development cannot be successfully achieved without the collective commitment and efforts of the international community. - G77]

[Each country bears primary responsibility for its own economic and social policies for development, notwithstanding ... (see Agenda for Development, para. 11). - G77]

[INCLUDE last sentence of para. 24 below: In pursuit of this, the participation of all countries, particularly developing countries, in international economic decision-making should be broadened and strengthened. - EU]

[G77 expressed the view to include the last sentence of its reformulated text (see para. 17 below): For such participation to be truly meaningful, the developing countries must have increased participation in the international decision-making process.]]

[3. [An enabling international environment and enhanced cooperation play important supporting roles. This requires promoting ~~good international~~ [EU] relations which [contribute to - EU] ~~make it possible for all nations to achieve equitable~~ [EU] human development and build inclusive societies. [DELETE/MERGE WITH NEW PARA. 2 - G77]]

[4. Global cooperation and partnership must be based on equality, mutual respect and benefit. It must take into consideration the gap between the level of development of different countries and the need to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries [, in particular, the least developed countries - G77]. ~~In this context~~ [EU] [T]here is an urgent need for [developed - G77] countries ~~to fulfil the commitment to provide additional resources~~ [EU] to ~~assist~~ [EU] [enhance resource flows from both public and private sources to - EU] developing countries to implement their social development programmes. [reservation - USA]

[EU replace paras. 4-6 with para. 7 of the Agenda for Development plus an additional para. on resources: "Globalization of the world economy presents opportunities and challenges for the development process as well as risks and uncertainties. As a result of the process of globalization and growing interdependence in the economic, social and environmental fields, an increasing number of issues cannot be effectively addressed by countries individually. Therefore, international cooperation is required. Furthermore, non-State actors with a global reach, such as transnational corporations, private financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, have important roles to play in the emerging network of international cooperation.]

[4 bis. Countries with economies in transition, undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformation also require the support of the international community. - Russian Federation]

[MERGE PARAS. 5 AND 6 - G77 AND EU - REFORMULATE AS FOLLOWS - G77:]

6. [Globalization presents challenges and opportunities.] The ~~disruptive~~ [negative] aspects of globalization, including the ~~[dangers from the]~~ increasing concentration of ~~unaccountable~~ economic power [that is unaccountable], the consequences of volatile international financial markets, the economic displacement and social disempowerment of segments of society, especially the weak and poor, ~~particularly in the least developed countries,~~ [and the further marginalization of entire countries and regions], must be addressed by positive measures, local, national, regional and international.

[old] 5. Policies and programmes at international levels need to ensure that the forces generated by globalization provide opportunities for all countries, especially the least developed countries ~~in~~ [and] Africa ~~, and for all segments of all society~~. (Place sentence at end of merged paras. 5 and 6 - G77)]

[MOVE PARAS. 7-10 NEAR PARA. 25 - EU]

[7. Partnerships between Governments, the private sector and civil society [including the private sector ~~and international organizations~~ - G77] are needed to promote ~~[ethical standards~~ [replace standards with conduct - EU]~~in business practice~~. social integration. - G77].

[Alternative lines 2, 3 and 4 of para. 7: ... and international organizations ... to promote social integration, inter alia, through promotion of ethical conduct in business practice. - Canada]

[8. [Social audits, the development of voluntary codes of conduct and participatory monitoring will help to empower and protect individuals and communities. DELETE - G77]]

[EU: Add text to beginning of para. 8: Assessment of the impact of business on society, including through social audits ... (remaining text of para. 8.)

9. [Core labour standards for all workers need to be agreed upon and observed. - DELETE - G77]

[9 alternative: Countries need to work for worldwide observance of core labour standards for all workers as laid down in the ILO conventions. - EU]

[Canada: Include para. 54 (b) of Copenhagen Programme of Action: Safeguarding and promoting respect for basic workers' rights, including the prohibition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value, and non-discrimination in employment, fully implementing the conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the case of States parties to those conventions, and taking into account the principles embodied in those conventions in the case of those countries that are not States parties to thus achieve truly sustained economic growth and sustainable development.]

[EU: para. 54 (d) of Copenhagen Programme (on labour standards): Using existing international labour standards to guide the formulation of national labour legislation and policies.]

[EU: New formulation of existing, alternative para. 9, last sentence: ... and contribute to the ongoing debate on these issues.]

10. [Programmes [and legal instruments - EU] to combat intolerable [replace intolerable by exploitive - USA] forms of child labour must be urgently devised and implemented. DELETE - G77].

[EU: move para. 10 to section 3 (a) (ii), "vulnerability".]

11. To ensure that growth-oriented macroeconomic policies build societies that are more inclusive, attention must be given to mainstreaming social development, including maximizing the growth of productive employment and promoting social integration.

[12. Social development and [, in particular the - G77] eradication of poverty facilitate the enjoyment of all human rights, and accordingly [poverty as a deprivation ~~the denial~~ - G77] of human rights is one of the causes of social exclusion [and needs to be eradicated - G77]. Social integration must be pursued by each country on the basis of respect for all human rights ~~[and fundamental freedoms~~. - G77] ~~[including~~ in particular - G77] the right to development [and fundamental freedoms, cultural, historical and religious diversity and - G77]. ~~Each country must also take into account the aims of~~ social justice, [and of - G77] the special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, ~~and the importance of democratic participation and the rule of law, while bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and the various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds.~~ - G77]

[Egypt cites General Assembly resolution 52/25 on the World Summit for Social Development, para. 4: Emphasizes that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society, are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development.]

13. Social development and social integration require comprehensive and holistic approaches and must deal with the root causes of social exclusion or disempowerment.

14. Social integration also requires investment in social institutions and social capital, enhancing social networks, building consensus and promoting individual and organizational capacities, especially of those living in poverty or otherwise marginalized.

[EU: add new last sentence to para. 14: National and supranational policies should take into account diversity and therefore prevent cultural exclusion. There must be a balance between promoting integration and respecting diversity.]

A. Promoting social integration through responsive government, full participation in society, non-discrimination, tolerance, equality and social justice

15. Governments have a responsibility for creating an environment that encourages participatory approaches, empowers people and combats all forms of discrimination, including against women minorities and weak [replace weak with disadvantaged - USA] and vulnerable groups.

[Individuals equally have a responsibility to society [within the framework of fundamental freedoms. - Canada]]

[Participation also entails a responsibility to society. - G77]

[EU citing art. 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Individuals equally have duties to the community.]

[16. Access to the legal system for all and combating the various forms of corruption by increasing the transparency of government and prosecuting offenders are necessary for both social justice and full participation.

[16 alternative. REPLACE 16 by:

The promotion of more responsive government that is representative, transparent and accountable [and combats various forms of corruption - EU] is an important factor for the enhancement of social integration and social justice and full participation. - G77]

17. Participation takes many forms and practices. It needs to be encouraged at all levels - national, regional and international. Citizen involvement in community activities, in local government and at the national level is essential. [For such participation to be truly meaningful, the developing countries must have increased participation in the international decision-making process. EU/G77 agree to move to new para. 2, upon agreement regarding new para. 2]

18. The empowerment of communities at the local level through, inter alia, decentralization is an important factor for the promotion of full participation. Governments are encouraged to empower local communities and local governments and enhance people's participation in all matters affecting them.]

19. Voluntary activities, including activities of NGOs and self-help groups, are an important means of providing and improving service and strengthening advocacy at local and national levels and need to be encouraged and recognized, inter alia, through due consideration of knowledge and skills acquired in these voluntary activities.

20. To build more inclusive societies, the elaboration of policy that promotes social development and social inclusion needs to be strengthened by creating mechanisms to take into account views and perspectives, and involving the participation of all, in particular the vulnerable and marginalized.

21. A supportive environment for the formation and development of civil society organizations at all levels and their active interaction with public institutions contribute strongly to enhancing participation, bearing in mind the specific national context.

22. In the context of developing policy instruments and programmes to promote a "society for all", two considerations should guide actions to promote the participation of [all individuals and groups, the interdependence of all members of society, and the lifelong development approach which emphasizes the potential productive and social contribution of all persons throughout life.]

22 bis. In this regard, the International Year for Older Persons in 1999 provides an opportunity for all actors, at all levels, to take practical steps towards full integration and continued participation of the elderly, thereby promoting the goal of "a society for all ages".

23. The primary unit for social integration is the family. It is in families that all people learn fundamental attachments, basic social skills and essential values. ~~[Public policy and community attitudes must promote an environment that supports and strengthens families.~~ Governments should strengthen institutions that enhance social integration, recognizing the central role of the family and providing it with an environment that assures its protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. - EU]

[G77 to add text to para. 23]

[EU proposes to replace the text by commitment 4 (k) of the Copenhagen Declaration: Strengthen institutions that enhance social integration, recognizing the central role of the family and providing it with an environment that ensures its protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist.]

[23 bis - EU: It is equally important to promote alternative care structures in situations where family structures have been eroded or destroyed, such as in the case of conflicts, extreme poverty or natural disasters.]

[23 bis - Holy See: In situations where family structures have been eroded or destroyed, such as in the case of conflicts, extreme poverty or natural disasters [and] where family reunification is impossible, it is important to promote alternative care [structures/arrangements/options].

24. Participation in productive work, other economic activities and in economic decision-making through different forms of association, including trades unions and stake ownership, are essential to social integration and well-being. Important steps to be taken in this regard include the establishment and expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises, expanding employment potential of the informal sector and enhancing its productivity and increasing the extent of ownership of shares. [Move to new para. 2 above: The ~~increased~~ participation of all countries, particularly developing countries, in international economic decision-making should be broadened and strengthened. - EU]

25. Fair, effective and efficient taxation systems are an important instrument to build more inclusive societies both in terms of their redistributive impact as well as in terms of the resources and the stake that they build in society for services and social protection systems.

26. The empowerment of women and their active participation are essential to social integration. Policies should ensure gender equality through changes in attitudes and practices, encourage the full participation and empowerment of women in social, economic and political life, enhance the gender balance in decision-making processes at all levels and improve access to ownership of resources and to positions of responsibility. Discriminatory attitudes and stereotyping must be actively combated. In this context, policies and programmes to enable women and men to combine working life and family life are essential.

27. Education is at the heart of participation and a powerful force for social integration. Equal access to quality education and training for all are essential to enhancing lifelong education. Education should also promote, tolerance, understanding of, and respect for cultural diversity, and solidarity.

[G77: Merge paras. 28-31 as a single para. and reformulate as shown.]

[28. [~~Rapid~~ - EU/G77] access to information is essential for participation in all spheres of life, including in the global economy. Policies are needed that promote new, cost-effective and participatory approaches to the generation, dissemination and use of information.

[29. Free [and responsible - G77] media with [~~widely disbursed~~ broad-based - G77] ownership is an essential feature of open [, participatory - G77] societies and accountable Governments and corporations.

[30. [~~There is a need for transparency in the production of data and its dissemination and the~~ - G77] [T]he information and communication media need to be responsive to the many requirements of all citizens. It is necessary to preserve and promote diversity in sources and channels of information.

[31. Communications technology provides the opportunities to reach [and include - EU] neglected and remote areas and people [by bringing them into the mainstream of society - EU]. To avoid the widening of the gap between the information-rich and information-poor, strategies must be developed to prioritize and [~~ensure~~ promote - EU] adequate investment in the latter. [The formidable expansion of the "information superhighway" must not be allowed to become a new source of exclusion at the national and international levels, and the international community must take appropriate measures to facilitate equitable access to these technologies. - Turkey] [~~There is a major role also at the global level for the international community.~~ - G77]

32. [EU - New text based on para. 32, points 2 and 3: To promote the mainstreaming of social development objectives at the local, national and international levels, Governments, the private sector, civil society and the United Nations system are encouraged to consider the impact of their actions on

social integration and social development through, inter alia, social impact analyses and continuous monitoring by means of social assessments.]

[G77 - New para. based on 32, point 4: The Commission for Social Development may encourage Governments to provide information on a voluntary basis about specific participatory methods and initiatives, at different levels, make this information widely available and consider periodically at its sessions the lessons learned.]

[EU - New para. based on 32, point 4, at end of text: The Secretary-General should continue to encourage Governments to provide on a voluntary basis information about specific participatory methods and initiatives at different levels and to make this information widely available; and the Commission for Social Development should consider periodically the lessons learned.]

33. Bilateral and multilateral assistance and technical cooperation should be based on the participatory principle and should be country driven. Policy dialogue between development partners should be on the basis of mutual respect.

34. In the context of globalization, the international community, particularly the international financial institutions, needs to consider further the social consequences of its policies and programmes.